

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST CONTINUATION SHEET
U.S. 301 SOUTH CORRIDOR TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Property Name: Marlboro Racetrack/Fairgrounds
Survey No.: P.G.:82A-1 (PACS A22)

Property Address 5700 Water Street, Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County

Owner Name/Address Prince George's County

Year Built 1895, main building - post 1985

Description:

The Marlboro Race Track/Fairgrounds was previously surveyed for the Historic Sites and Districts Plan for Prince George's County in 1981 and by the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission in 1985. The clubhouse and grandstand burned in 1981. Since that time, the facility has been used as an equestrian center and a new clubhouse/fairgrounds building has been constructed.

National Register Evaluation:

The Marlboro Race Track/Fairgrounds is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. It is not eligible under Criterion C, as its main buildings are no longer extant. The surviving buildings do not possess sufficient architectural distinction or importance of function to represent the heritage of the fairgrounds. Finally, the structure has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

MHT CONCURRENCE:

Eligibility recommended X not recommended

Criteria A B C D Considerations A B C D E F G None

Comments: _____

Suzanne Pickens

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

07/21/1997

Date

B. Kuntze
Reviewer, NR program

7/21/97
Date

Preparer:

P.A.C. Spero & Company

September 1996

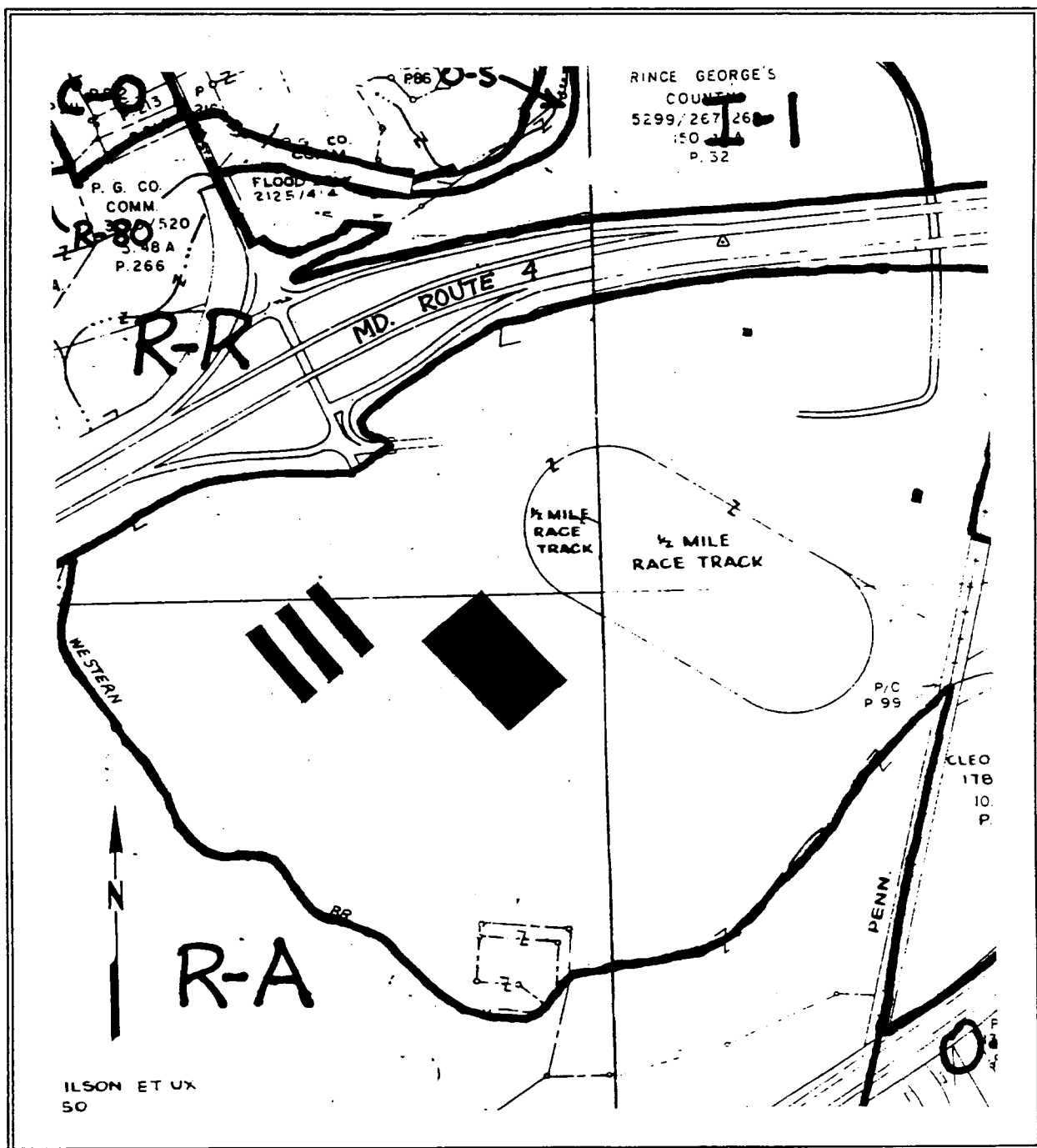
Amel

Property Address 5700 Water Street, Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County

Owner Name/Address Prince George's County

Year Built 1895, main building - post 1985

Resource Sketch Map:



U.S. 301 South Corridor
Transportation Study

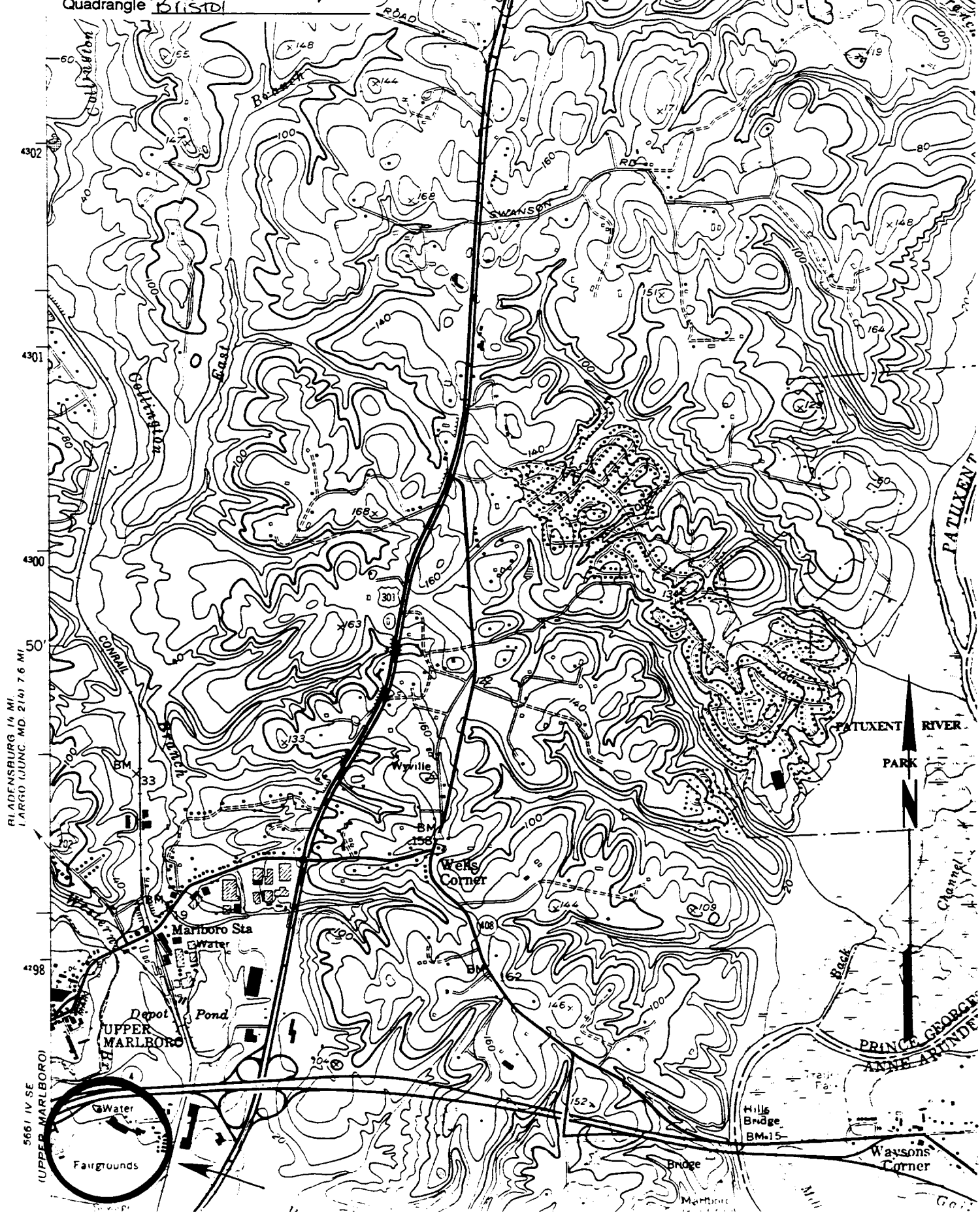
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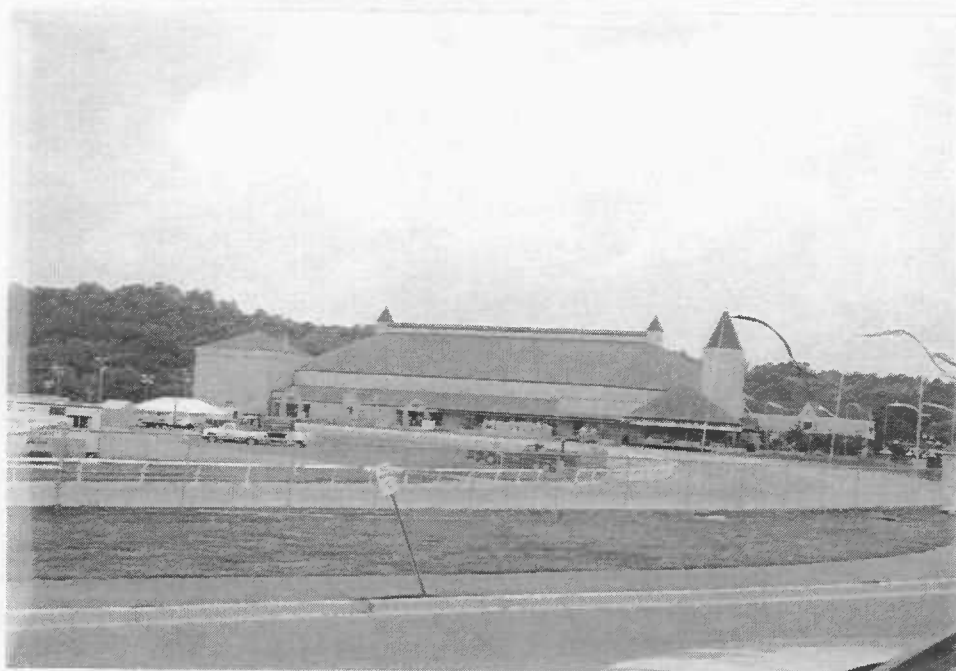
Survey # 22, PG 82A-1

Property Name Marlboro Race track / Fairgrounds

Town/County Upper Marlboro / P.G. Co.

Quadrangle B1501





PG:82A-1



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #82 A-1 Building Date: 1895

Building Name: Marlboro Racetrack/Fairgrounds

Location: 5700 Water Street, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Private/Recreation/Occupied/Good/Unrestricted

Description:

The Marlboro Racetrack/Fairgrounds is a 99 acre, grassy tract south Upper Marlboro that has a 5/8 mile unpaved horse racing track, stables and other outbuildings pertaining to the housing, care and show of horses. The structures are all of twentieth century construction. The cement block clubhouse, with seating for 1,000 and the frame, covered grandstand, with seating for 2600, both located north of the track, burned in 1981. The facility is owned by Prince George's County and used as an equestrian center.

Significance:

Horse racing was a popular public passtime in Upper Marlboro beginning in the 18th century. Racing at Upper Marlboro continued through the early 1970's when the 1/2 mile track was finally out-moded by the larger tracks in other parts of the County and the State. Racing has been an important factor in Upper Marlboro's and the County's history. As early as 1745 two day "meets" or fairs took place in the spring and fall on a parcel called Mrs. Craufurd's "old fields". This site continued to be used at least through 1834 when William Boteler rented to the Upper Marlboro Jockey Club the same "old fields" for use as a race course. In 1895 the Agricultural Fair Association of Prince George's County purchased 92.5 acres southeast of Upper Marlboro, formerly the property of Clement Hill, to establish a fairground and race course. The present track is located on this site. The Agricultural Fair Association owned and ran the racetrack from 1895 through 1975. The facility was bought by Prince George's County in 1980. The clubhouse and grandstand were destroyed by the fire shortly after this date. Racing had not been held at the track since the Marlboro racing dates were transferred to the Bowie race track, in the early 1970's. Since 1980 the facility has been used for the annual County Fair and as an Equestrian Center.

Acreage: 99.93 acres

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Marlboro Racetrack

and/or common The Marlboro Racetrack/Fairgrounds

2. Location

street & number 5700 Water Street ☐ not for publicationcity, town Upper Marlboro ☐ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Prince George's County Government

street & number 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Room L-108 telephone no.:

city, town Upper Marlboro, state and zip code MD. 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5299

street & number Main Street folio 267

city, town Upper Marlboro, state MD. 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites and Districts Plan for Prince George's County, Maryland

date 1981 ☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale, state MD. 20737

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #82A-1

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Marlboro Racetrack/Fairgrounds is a 99 acre, grassy tract south of Upper Marlboro that has a 5/8 mile unpaved horse racing track, stables and other outbuildings pertaining to the housing, care and show of horses. The buildings are all of twentieth century construction. Both the cement block clubhouse, with seating for 1,000 and the frame, covered grandstand, with seating for 2,600, located north of the track, burned in 1981. The facility is owned by Prince George's County and used as an equestrian center.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. #82A-1

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History
Specific dates	1895	Builder/Architect		sport

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Horse racing was a popular public passtime in Upper Marlboro beginning in the eighteenth century. Racing at Upper Marlboro continued through the early 1970's when the 1/2 mile track was finally out-moded by the larger tracks in other parts of the County and the State. Racing has been an important cultural and social factor in Upper Marlboro's and the County's history. The Marlboro race track has been the site of horse racing from 1895 through the early 1970's, carrying on a local tradition that began in the eighteenth century. Its use is still connected with the business of horse raising and training.

As early as 1745 two day "meets" or fairs took place in the spring and fall on a parcel called Mrs. Craufurd's "old fields".¹ These were organized by the Maryland Jockey Club, out of Annapolis. This site continued to be used at least through 1834 when William Boteler rented to the Upper Marlboro Jockey Club the same "old fields" for use as a race course.²

In 1895 the Agricultural Fair Association of Prince George's County purchased 92.5 acres southeast of Upper Marlboro, formerly the property of Clement Hill, to establish a fairground and race course.³ The present track is located on this site. The Agricultural Fair Association owned and ran the racetrack from 1895 through 1975. At its peak, in 1968, the track attracted 10,382 visitors. The facility was bought by Prince George's County in 1980. The clubhouse and grandstand were destroyed by the fire shortly after this date. Racing had not been held at the track since the early 1970's when the Marlboro racing dates were transferred to the Bowie race track. Since 1980 the facility has been used for the annual County Fair and as an Equestrian Center.

Notes

¹ Prince George's Heritage, Louise Joyner Hienton, Maryland Historical Society, 1972, pg. 130.

² Land Records of Prince George's County, A.B. 8:558, 27 June, 1834.

³ Ibid, J.W.B. 33:665, 20 May 1895.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #82A-1

See Notes, #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 99.93 acresQuadrangle name Upper Marlboro

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting							Northing	

B

Zone	Easting							Northing	

C

Zone	Easting							Northing	

D

Zone	Easting							Northing	

E

Zone	Easting							Northing	

F

Zone	Easting							Northing	

G

Zone	Easting							Northing	

H

Zone	Easting							Northing	

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marina King, Architectural Historianorganization Historic Preservation Commission date September 1985street & number c/o County Planning Div. , M-NCPPC telephone 952-3521city or town 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive state MD. 20772
Upper Marlboro,

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

1703634711 P.A.

PG# 82A-1

#82A-1

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Marlboro Racetrack / Fairgrounds

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route 4

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Md.

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

P.G.

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☒ STRUCTURE
☒ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES RESTRICTED
☐ YES UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☒ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Southern Md. Ag. Fair Assoc.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Prince George's County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old racetrack here, dating from the early 1900's, has been expanded and modernized several times. However, some of the stables and tack bldgs. SW of the grandstand may date from the early period. The track has been closed within the past few years. A good photo of the old track, taken in 1914, appears in Shreves, Marlbo 250th Anniversary booklet.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PG: 82A-1

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Upper Marlboro is one of the birth-places of American horse-racing. Races were held near here - possibly on this site - as early as the mid - 1700's. The present course dates from the turn of the century, and has been the focal point of many Southern Md. Agricultural fairs, etc.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

250th Anniversary Souvenir Booklet of Upper Marlboro, Md.
 1971 by James Shreve p 24-25

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION _____

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

9/24/74

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

MD.

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The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

Chain of Title

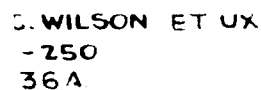
Marlboro Racetrack/Fairgrounds P.G. #82A-1

5299:267 26 Aug. 1980 Corp. Deed	Southern Maryland Agricultural Association, Inc. and Prince George's County for \$1,150,000.00 grantors convey 99.93 acres.
4497:415 3 June 1975 Deed	The Southern Maryland Agricultural Fair Association of Prince George's County and Southern Maryland Agricultural Association, Inc. For #1.00 grantor conveys that land known as Marlboro Racetrack.
1457:494 24 Jan. 1952 Mortgage	The Southern Maryland Agricultural Fair Association of Prince George's County and the Southern Maryland Agricultural Association of Prince George's County. For \$10 and promissory notes grantor conveys that parcel of 173.7 acres in Marlboro district.
JB 7:77 26 Jan. 1899 Deed	Eliza Holmes widow of Thornten Holmes, and heirs to Agricultural Fair Association of Prince George's County. For \$35/acre grantors convey a parcel east of side of the road from Upper Marlboro to the fairgrounds containing 6 acres. A part of land described in deed from William B. Jackson to Thornton Holmes, 12/31/1883, JWB 3:603.
JWB 33:665 20 May 1895 Deed	William B. Jackson and George J. Seufferle of Jackson, Brother and Company to the Agricultural Fair Association of Prince George's County. For \$805.50 grantors convey a parcel near Upper Marlboro originally belonging to Clement Hill, 92.5 acres. Land herein conveyed acquired from William B. Jackson, 7/22/1880 - WAJ 1:596, R.B.B. Chew, 10/20/1882 - JWB 1:329, 5/4/1885 - JWB 4:644, 3/5/1894 - JWB 29:133.
JWB 3:603 4 Dec. 1883 Deed	William B. Jackson of Jackson, Brother and Company to Thornton Holmes. For \$1,289 grantors convey a tract near Upper Marlboro of 92 acres.
WAJ 1:596 22 July 1880 Deed	William B. Jackson to Jackson and George J. Seufferle - grantor acquired property 23 June 1880 in Sheriff's sale of Clement Hill's property. For \$5.00 grantor conveys parcels called Woodland and Hepburn, near Upper Marlboro, containing 303 acres described in deed from Clement Hill and others to Jacob N. Burkett 2/2/1876, H.G. 11:31 in trust for use of Jackson Brother and Company.

- 2 -

H.B. 11:31
2 Feb. 1876
Deed

Clement Hill first part; Benjamin L. Jackson and William B. Jackson of B.L. Jackson and brother of Wahsington, D.C. for second; Benjamin L. Jackson, William B. Jackson and George J. Seufferle trading as Jackson Brother, of Washington, D.C. and Jacob N. Burkett of Washington, D.C. for 4th part. Hill sells to Burkett that portion of farm upon which he resides containing 274 acres, also the burnt house lot where his house once stood containing 27 acres, all of \$12,650.





P.G. #82 A-1

Marlboro Racetrack/Fairgrounds

Prince George's County, MD.

Marina King

May 1985

looking North

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



NAME MARLBORO RACE TRACK

PG: 82A-1

LOCATION RT. 4 UPPER MARLBORO, MD

FACADE LOOKING E

PHOTO TAKEN 9/24/74 MDWYER